

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 7 are amended, and claims 11 and 12 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Title Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the title as not descriptive. The title is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

II. Claim 6 Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claim 6 because of informalities. It appears that this objection does not take into account the April 6, 2000 Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Claims 1-10 Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Regarding claims 1-6 and 8-10, it appears that this rejection does not take into account the April 6, 2000 Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. Claim 7 is amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the admitted art, claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the admitted art in view of Yokota, claims 3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the admitted art in view of Broer, claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Ouderkirk in

view of Farrell, and claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the admitted art in view of Heembrock. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The admitted art and Ouderkirk do not disclose at least one light diffusing sheet for receiving, on its face, the first diffused light output from the light outputting surface of the lightconductor, and outputting a second diffused light having a directivity from a light outputting surface of the diffusing sheet opposite to the face of the diffusing sheet, the light diffusing sheet shifts the direction of the maximum intensity of the second diffused light toward the direction of the normal standing on the light outputting surface of the diffusing sheet; and a polarized beam splitting sheet which receives the second diffused light from the light outputting surface of the light diffusing sheet, through which one polarized light component of the second diffused light is transmitted, and on which the other polarized light component is reflected, as claimed in claim 1, and similarly claimed in claim 6.

Instead, as indicated in the Office Action, Ouderkirk does not even disclose a light diffusing sheet. Further, the admitted art only generally discloses a diffusing sheet 5 at page 2 that does not have the claimed features discussed above.

The light diffusing sheet 16 in accordance with the invention and its advantages are disclosed in the specification at page 14, lines 3-22 and page 17, lines 10-17. The diffusing sheet 5 of the admitted art cannot provide these advantages.

Further, none of the other applied art makes up for the above deficiencies.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6 define allowable subject matter. Claims 2-5 and 7-12, which depend from claims 1 and 6, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:EDM/ccs

Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: October 27, 2000

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